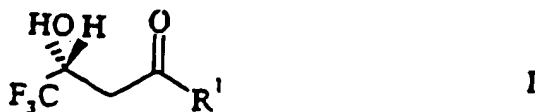


The invention relates to a novel biotechnological process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the general formula



4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives such as ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyrate are important intermediates for preparing Befloxatone, a monamine oxidase A inhibitor (EP-A-0 736 606).

On page 2, replace the paragraph on line 11-29, with the following paragraph:

According to the invention, the process is carried out by a trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivative of the general formula



in which

R1 is -OR², in which R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,

-NR³R⁴, in which R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent

hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl or aryl, α

-SR⁵, in which R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, aryl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl,

being converted by means of microorganisms which are able to reduce a carbonyl function, or by means of a cell-free enzyme extract of these microorganisms, into the compound of the general

formula

